

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 EB-07

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R 111738Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1046

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 13465

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EC, GW

SUBJECT: FRG COMMENTS ON DIRECT ELECTIONS AND EC
COMMISSION

REF: EC BRUSSELS 7439

1. AUGUST 11 HACH, FORMINISTRY OFFICIAL FOR EC AFFAIRS,
TOLD EMBOFF THAT IN HIS VIEW SEPTEMBER 20 EC FOREIGN
MINISTERS COUNCIL WILL APPROVE FORMAL INSTRUMENT FOR
1978 DIRECT ELECTIONS TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. HE
THOUGHT THAT RATIFICATION WILL GO SMOOTHLY IN ALL EC
STATES WITH EXCEPTION OF FRANCE AND BRITAIN. HACH
SAID THAT FRG INTERPRETS FRENCH PROBLEM AS TRICKY BUT
SOLUBLE. HOWEVER, FRG LESS SANGUINE ABOUT ULTIMATE
BRITISH POSITION, BECAUSE MANY FACTORS -- DEVOLUTION,
LABOUR POLITICS, DISPUTE OVER ELECTORAL METHOD --
ENCUMBER LONDON'S CONSIDERATION OF 1978 DIRECT
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ELECTIONS. HACH CONCLUDED THAT, UNDER BEST OF

CIRCUMSTANCES "MUCH POLITICAL PRESSURE" WILL BE NEEDED AFTER SEPTEMBER 20 TO BRING ELECTIONS OFF ON SCHEDULE.

2. HACH DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN "POLITICAL DECISION" LIKELY TO EMERGE FROM SEPTEMBER 20 COUNCIL AND "LEGAL OBLIGATION" WHICH WILL EXIST ONLY WHEN EC-9 RATIFY AND SET DATES FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS. HE SAID THAT DIRECT ELECTIONS CANNOT BE HELD UNLESS ALL STATES GO TO POLLS IN SAME TIME-FRAME, WITH EXCEPTION OF DENMARK FOR WHICH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT HAS BEEN MADE.

3. ASKED HOW FRG VIEWS MAKE-UP OF FUTURE EC COMMISSION, HACH DECLINED TO SPECULATE. HE INSISTED THAT FRG WILL NOT SERIOUSLY ADDRESS ISSUE UNTIL AFTER OCTOBER 3 NATIONAL ELECTIONS, BECAUSE CHOICE OF GERMAN COMMISSIONERS IS POLITICAL DECISION WHICH TOUCHES NERVE OF SPD/FDP COALITION. (IN SEPARATE TALK WITH ECON MINISTER AUGUST 10, CHANCELIORY POLITICAL ADVISOR LOECK TOOK SAME LINE. HE SAID SPD/FDP, IF VICTORIOUS OCTOBER 3, WILL ONLY CHOOSE FUTURE GERMAN COMMISSIONERS IN CONTEXT OF NEW COALITION AGREEMENT. LOECK NOTED THAT FRG HAS HAD SOME TROUBLE IN PERSUADING TOP PEOPLE TO TAKE THOSE JOBS.) HACH SAID THAT, AFTER OCTOBER 3, FRG WILL CONSULT WITH COMMISSION PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE JENKINS ON ITS NOMINEES, IN LINE WITH INFORMAL AGREEMENT REACHED AT JULY EUROPEAN SUMMIT.

4. ON PERSONAL BASIS, HACH DOUBTED THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S PROPOSAL TO LOWER NUMBER OF EC COMMISSIONERS TO 9 WILL HAVE MUCH SUCCESS. IDEA HAS FOUND LITTLE FAVOR IN FRG, HE CLAIMED, ESPECIALLY IN FOREIGN MINISTRY WHERE FDP CHAIRMAN GENSCHER HAS NO DESIRE TO SACRIFICE SEAT HELD BY FDP COMMISSIONER IN BRUSSELS. HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, ELECTIONS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN13465
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760309-1022
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760866/aaaacfhf.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 EC BRUSSELS 7439
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <06 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG COMMENTS ON DIRECT ELECTIONS AND EC COMMISSION
TAGS: PFOR, GE, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006